Removal of Encroachments from the Ridge in Delhi

7949. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT ..AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed recently that all the encroachments be removed from the Ridges in Delhi, which is the city's dwinding green lung;

(b) if so, whether a beginning would be made in this direction by first removing the Polo Ground of the President from the Ridge, followed by the removal of all Government encroachments, including army and para-military camps, religious and private encroachments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has issued a notification on 24.5.1994 under Section-4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 for declaring Ridge areas as reserved forest. Also, under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has appointed a Forest Settlement Officer to determine the existence, nature and extent of any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within limits of the areas notified under Section-4 on 24.5.1994. This Ministry has already requested the Delhi Administration to take action for evicting all the encroachmens on Delhi Ridge in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Statistics about Forest Wealth

7950. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are maintaining district-wise statistics of the forest wealth in the country;

(b) if so which organisation has been responsible for updating such statistics; and

(c) whether help of the State Government is sought in updating such statistics; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an Organisation of this Ministry, carries out district-wise assessment of the Forest cover of the country on a two years cycle basis, based on visual interpretations of Land-sat imageries.

(c) The State Governments provide cooperation and assistance in carrying out such assessment for updating the statistics.

Import of a Poisonous Chemical

7951. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

Whether a chemical used in manufacture of foam which, if catches fire, emits MIC like gas, as was emitted in Bhopal gas tragedy, is imported every year in huge quantity; if so, the details thereof, indicating the amount of this chemical imported during 1991-92, 1992—94, and 1994-95 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):